AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) A valve metal oxide having an atomic ratio of valve metal to oxygen of 1: less than 2.5, wherein said valve metal oxide comprises granules having a size of from about 5 microns to about 1,000 microns, wherein said valve metal oxide has a flow of from 300 to about 1,000 mg/s as measured by ASTM B 213, wherein said valve metal oxide is niobium oxide.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Previously presented) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said flow is from about 300 to about 700 mg/s.

43. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said granule size from about 30 to about 300 microns.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said ~~valve metal is niobium having an~~ atomic ratio ~~of niobium to oxygen of~~ is 1: less than 1.5.

46. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said atomic ratio is 1:1.1.

47. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein the atomic ratio is 1:0.7.

48. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said atomic ratio is 1:0.5.

49. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said valve metal has a specific surface area of from about 0.5 to about 10.0 m^2/g.

50. (Currently amended) The valve metal oxide of claim [[44]] 40, wherein said niobium oxide comprises NbO.

51. (Currently amended) The valve metal oxide of claim [[44]] 40, wherein said niobium oxide comprises $NbO_{0.7}$, $NbO_{1.1}$, or combinations thereof.

52. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, further comprising nitrogen.

53. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said valve metal oxide has the shape that is nodular, flaked, angular, or combinations thereof.

54-56. (Canceled)

57. (Original) A capacitor comprising the valve metal suboxide of claim 40.

58. (Original) A capacitor anode comprising the valve metal suboxide of claim 40.

59. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said valve metal oxide comprises a primary suboxide phase purity of at least 75% by weight.

60. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said valve metal oxide comprises a primary suboxide phase purity is at least 90% by weight.

61. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said valve metal oxide comprises a primary suboxide phase purity is at least 99.95% by weight.

62. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said valve metal oxide comprises a valve metal phase.

63. (Original) The valve metal oxide of claim 40, wherein said valve metal oxide comprises a secondary suboxide phase.